

## CLAIMS:

1. A method for emergency notification over a telephone network wherein the emergency notification is initiated by emergency event information and emergency location information, the steps comprising;

- 5           a. processing at a central emergency coordination center (CECC) the emergency location information by comparing the emergency location information with a stored look-up program,
- b. identifying one or more regional emergency coordination centers (RECCs) at the emergency location,
- 10          c. transmitting emergency location information from the CECC to the RECC,
- d. transmitting emergency event information from the CECC to the RECC,
- e. in response to step c., selecting a list of telephone numbers of
- 15          customers affected,
- f. using the list of step e., initiating customer telephone calls from the RECC to receivers of the customers affected,
- g. in response to step d. transmitting emergency event information to receivers of the customers affected.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the stored look-up program in step a. comprises geography data.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the stored look-up program in step a.  
comprises specific customer information.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein step e., the step of selecting comprises  
5 generating a list of customer telephone numbers.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the network initiates normal calls to the  
customers affected using a first telephone ringing pattern, and the telephone  
calls in step. f are initiated using a second ringing pattern.
- 10 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the second ringing pattern comprises rings  
having a duration of less than 50% of those in the first ringing pattern.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the call initiated in step f. is answered by an  
15 answering machine and the RECC detects the answering machine.
8. The method of claim 5 wherein the receivers detect the second ringing  
pattern using a ringing pattern detector (RPD).
- 20 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the (RPD) activates an alarm in response to  
detecting the second ringing pattern.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the RECC records the response to the

telephone calls made and re-queues selected calls for a repeat call.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the response is selected from the group consisting of no answer, busy, and answering device.

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12. A method for emergency notification over a telephone network wherein the emergency notification is initiated by emergency location information, the steps comprising;

- a. processing at a central emergency coordination center (CECC) the  
10 emergency location information by comparing the emergency location information with a stored look-up program,
- b. identifying one or more regional emergency coordination centers (RECCs) at the emergency location,
- c. transmitting emergency location information from the CECC to the  
15 RECC,
- d. in response to step c., selecting a list of telephone numbers of customers affected,
- f. using the list of step d., initiating customer telephone calls from the RECC to receivers of the customers affected, the telephone calls  
20 comprising a distinctive ring pattern.

13. An emergency notification system comprising a telephone network wherein the emergency notification is initiated by emergency event information and

emergency location information, comprising;

- a. a central emergency coordination center (CECC),
- b. means associated with the CECC for receiving the emergency event information and the emergency location information,
- 5 c. a stored program in the CECC for correlating emergency location information with telephone customer location information and identifying one or more regional emergency coordination centers (RECCs) at the emergency location,
- d. means for transmitting emergency location information from the
- 10 CECC to the RECC,
- e. means for transmitting emergency event information from the CECC to the RECC,
- f. means for generating a customer list of telephone numbers of customers affected,
- 15 g. means for generating an emergency message,
- h. means for initiating emergency telephone calls from the RECC to receivers of the customers affected,
- i. means for transmitting the emergency message to receivers of the customers affected.

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14. The system of claim 13 wherein the stored program comprises geography data.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the stored program comprises specific customer information.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the customer list is generated by the RECC.

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17. The system of claim 13 further including network means for initiating normal calls to the customers affected with a first telephone ringing pattern, and means for initiating the emergency calls to the customers affected with a second ringing pattern.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the second ringing pattern comprises rings having a duration of less than 50% of those in the first ringing pattern.

19. The system of claim 13 further including a ringing pattern detector (RPD)

15 connected to the receivers to detect the second ringing pattern.

20. The system of claim 19 including means in the RPD for activating an alarm in response to detecting the second ringing pattern.

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